



**Carding Nomination Criteria for the 2023-2024 Sport
Canada Athlete Assistance Program (AAP)**

“How to qualify for 2023-2024 AAP Carding”



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Introduction

- a) The aim of this document is to describe the criteria that will be used by Freestyle Canada (FC) for nominating athletes for Sport Canada's Athlete Assistance Program (AAP) for the 2023-24 cycle.
- b) The nomination of athletes to the AAP is the responsibility of the FC's Chief Executive Officer, acting on the recommendations of Freestyle Canada HPP staff. Sport Canada is responsible for the final approval of nominations to the AAP.
- c) Sport Canada's general policies and procedures governing AAP can be found on the Sport Canada website at:
 - a. https://www.canada.ca/content/dam/pch/documents/services/sport-policies-acts-regulations/app_policy_procedures_eng.pdf
 - b. This includes all information pertaining to the establishment and application of criteria used by FC.

Each Freestyle Canada HPP discipline has specific protocols and definitions which are published in their National Team Selection Protocols and available on www.freestylecanada.ski. Eligibility criteria in the HPP Selection Protocols are applicable to this document.

Intention Statement

The support provided by Sport Canada through the AAP program contributes toward improved Canadian performances at major international sporting events (such as the Olympic Games and World Championships). The funding received by eligible athletes helps relieve some of the financial pressures through a living and training allowance. SC allocates FC a finite amount of financial support to distribute as cards eligible athletes.

FC's priority for carding distribution to eligible athletes is based on the progress of a skier towards a medal at a next (or a future) major event. The progress of each eligible skier, in each discipline, is considered as these criteria are applied.

Priority of Nominations

Cards will be allocated in the following priority order:

- A. Athletes who meet SR1 criteria.
- B. Athletes who meet SR2 criteria.
- C. Injured athletes carded at SR2 in 2022-2023 who meet the Exceptional Circumstance clause in the HPP Team selection criteria.



- D. Athletes who meet the SR/C1 criteria in the order described in the Senior National Card Criteria (SR/C1) section of this document.
- E. Injured athletes carded at SR level in 2022-2023 who meet the Exceptional Circumstances clause in the HPP Team selection criteria.
- F. Athletes who meet the Development Card criteria in the order described in this document.
- G. Injured athletes carded at D in 2022-2023 who meet the Exceptional Circumstances clause in the HPP Team Selection criteria. Criteria found at this link: <https://freestylecanada.ski/policies/national-team-policies/>
- H. For Development Cards only, slopestyle / big air and halfpipe athletes who are selected to the National Team in one discipline and do not meet the carding criteria in that discipline but meet the criteria in the other discipline, can be eligible for a D card when there is funding left over.

Allocation Timelines

FC and Sport Canada will normally hold their review meeting before the end of May each year; this meeting will determine the nominations for the allocation of carding. Consistent with AAP policies and procedures, it is understood that additional nominations may occur later in the carding cycle depending on changes to the status of those athletes initially nominated and accepted for carding, and available funding. These additional nominations will be prioritized according to the procedures detailed in this document.

Variables that affect the allocation of the AAP funding include retirements, voluntary withdrawal from AAP, injury decisions, an athlete's decision to decline carding support and adjustments to current year funding amounts.

- A. On or before June 10th Freestyle Canada will provide notice to the athletes of Sport Canada approved AAP Carding allocations for the coming season.
- B. July 30th, target to finalize carding allocation confirmation.
- C. Should any funding for carding become available during the season, Freestyle Canada will work with SC to nominate the next eligible athlete on the Performance Allocation ranking list.

AAP Carding Support Eligibility

To qualify for AAP Carding support, an athlete must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- A. The athlete must be a permanent resident of Canada on the date of the beginning of the carding cycle, and the athlete must have been a legal resident in Canada (student status, refugee status, work visa or permanent resident) for a minimum period of one year before being considered for AAP support. The athlete would normally have been



expected to participate in FC- sanctioned activities during that period.

- B. The athlete, under the Freestyle Skiing eligibility requirements of the Federation International de Ski (FIS), must currently be eligible to represent Canada at major international events, including FIS World Championships.
- C. To be eligible for Sport Canada Carding an athlete must be a member in good standing with FC and the High Performance Program.
- D. Only athletes competing in Olympic Winter Games medal events – single moguls, dual moguls, aerials, team aerials, halfpipe, slopestyle and big air – will be considered for Sport Canada Carding. Team aerial results are only considered for Senior International Card allocations under the criteria detailed the Senior International Carding Criteria section.
- E. To receive carding, all athletes must complete and submit the Sport Canada AAP application and undertake the CCES educational requirements. Athletes who have not completed these tasks may not be eligible for carding.
- F. Before the first AAP first payment is released by Sport Canada the following tasks must be undertaken:
 - the FC Athlete Agreement must be signed and returned,
 - FC membership has been paid (or a payment plan arranged).
 - Any outstanding balance owed to Freestyle Canada from previous periods has been addressed.

AAP Cards

TYPE CARD	OF	ALLOCATED FOR	AMOUNT
Senior International card	2 years	SR1: 1 st year with this card SR2: 2 nd year of this card	\$21,180 per year (\$1,765 per month)
Senior National card / C1	1 year (maximum 5 years)		1 st year (C1): \$12,720 per year (\$1060 per month) Following years: \$21,180 per year (\$1,765 per month)
Development card	1 year (maximum 5 years)		\$12,720 per year (\$1060 per month)

**The current AAP allotment for Freestyle Canada is the equivalent of 43 Senior cards. Sport Canada regularly reviews its allocation of cards to National Sport Organizations therefore, this number is subject to change.*



Senior International Carding Criteria (SR1/SR2)

Cards in this category are awarded for results in the most recent World Championships or Olympic Winter Games.

- A. Eligible athletes placing in the top 8 and top half of the field (counting a maximum of three entries per country) at the FIS World Championships or at the Olympic Games may be nominated for SR1/SR2.
- B. In Olympic years, nominations for carding will be based on results from athletes competing in Olympic Winter Games the following medal events – single moguls, dual moguls, aerials, team aerials, halfpipe, slopestyle and big air.
- C. In FIS World Championships years, nominations for carding will be based on results from athletes competing in Olympic Winter Games the following medal events – single moguls, dual moguls, aerials, team aerials, halfpipe, slopestyle and big air.
- D. Athletes that qualify for carding under the Senior International criteria are eligible for two years of AAP support, with the card for the first year referred to as a SR1 Card and the card for the second year referred to as a SR2 card. The second year is subject to the athlete being re-nominated by FC, training and competitive program approved by FC and Sport Canada, signing an Athlete/FC agreement completing the on-line anti-doping courses, and signing the AAP application form for the year in question.

Senior National Card Criteria (SR/C1)

- A. Carding in this category will be granted for a period of one year at a time.
- B. For the first year an athlete meets the SR National Criteria he or she will be classified at the C1 carding level and is funded at the Development card dollar amount.
- C. If an athlete has been identified at the Freestyle Canada A Team level and/or has competed at the most recent World Championships or most recent Olympic Winter Games, they may skip the C1 classification and be eligible for a Sr Card.
- D. Athletes previously carded at SR1/2 will skip the C1 level and be eligible for SR directly.
- E. Athletes are expected to make progress in their results and/or maintain top 8 international rankings (i.e. WC FIS standings for moguls, aerials, slopestyle, big air and halfpipe), in order to maintain SR Card status. Normally, five (5) years is the maximum that an athlete will be carded at the senior level based on national criteria (excluding years when the athlete was awarded a SR/C1 injury card). After such time, Sport Canada will require a comprehensive thoroughly documented review of the athlete's performance over the past five years to demonstrate progress toward performance equivalent to top 8 and top half at the FIS



World Championships or Olympic Games, which then warrants nomination of “Senior National” card status for an additional year. In addition, FC will specify performance criteria (training criteria or competitive results) that must be met to receive subsequent nominations. This process must be followed for all subsequent years that the athlete is nominated at this level.

F. To be eligible for AAP SR/C1 Carding, an athlete needs to meet one of two specific performance benchmarks:

- One World Cup podium or,
- Achieve two World Cup *Final Placing Standards* in an individual World Cup, Olympic Winter Games or World Championship event; these must be in the top percentage of the field size as indicated in the table below:

<i>Final Placing Standards by Discipline</i>			
Moguls (Women and Men)	2 - Top 12*	From either Moguls or Dual Moguls	And place in the top 2/3 of the field
Aerials (Women and Men)	2 - Top 12**	Only placings from the individual event are eligible	
Halfpipe (Women and Men)	2 - Top 12		
Slopestyle and Big Air - Women	2 - Top 12	From either Slopestyle or Big Air Events	
Slopestyle and Big Air - Men	2 - Top 16	From either Slopestyle or Big Air Events	

Results for Final Placing Standards may also be achieved in World Championship or Olympic Winter Games events (i.e. 9th to 12th would count as an eligible result)

Note: For any discipline where there are four (4) or fewer WC / WCh / OWG eligible competitions in a season, an athlete would only need to achieve one Final Placing Standard (specific to his or her discipline) and place in the top 1/2 of the field.

Eligible athletes will be nominated in the following order:

- a. Athletes named to the 2023-2024 World Cup Teams or National ‘A’ and ‘B’ groups by the “Exceptional circumstances” clause, as outlined in the HPP team selection protocols and who had a SR card for the 2022-23 carding cycle, may be eligible for nomination for a SR injury card (SR-HC).



- b. Eligible athletes named to the 2023-2024 National World Cup or 'A' and 'B' groups, who were ranked Top 10 in World rankings in 2022-2023 (As of May 1st, 2023: FIS World Cup Standings) may be eligible for nomination for a SR card for 2023-24 upon the High Performance Selection Committee's recommendation, provided they were carded at a Senior card level for the 2022-2023 carding cycle.
- c. If more athletes meet Senior National Card criteria than available cards, and there is a need to compare athletes from different disciplines or within a discipline, the following tiebreaking will be used:
 - The athlete's two best eligible placings from high level competitions (i.e. FIS World Cups and Tier 1 neutral or boosted events) held in the previous twelve months, will be given a value of the placing (1st =1 point, 7th = 7 points). The athlete with the lowest sum of points will be ranked highest. If a tie remains it will be broken in favor of the athlete with the best eligible placing.
 - If a tie remains, it will be broken in favor of the athlete with the best ranking on the final 2022-2023 FIS World Cup standings list of their discipline.

Development (D) Card Criteria

A. Introduction

After all eligible Sr and Sr International cards have been allocated, it is possible for there to be a remaining balance of funds to be allocated to Freestyle Canada; any remaining amount is allocated to Development Cards. This remaining amount is divided into Development Cards and distributed to eligible athletes under the guidelines and process in this section.

B. Development Card Principles

1. Discipline Equity: In the Primary Allocation equal funding and equal distribution of cards will be considered where there are enough eligible athletes in each discipline.
2. Gender Equity: In the Primary Allocation of Development Cards, gender balance will be considered in each discipline where there are enough eligible athletes of each gender. Details are available in Section D: Distribution of Development Cards.
3. Performance Consideration: In the case of uneven cards available to the disciplines or a tie between disciplines or genders, performance will be prioritized.



C. Development Card Restrictions:

4. Once an athlete has reached the Senior FIS age, as defined by the FIS age categories, athletes are eligible to be carded a maximum of five (5) years at the D card level (excluding years when the athlete was awarded a D injury card).
5. Any athlete previously carded at the Senior card levels (SR1, SR2, SR, C1) for two or more years is not eligible for nominations under the Development card criteria, unless they:
 - i. Were at the FIS Junior age category when carded at the Senior Level.

AND/OR

 - ii. Were competing in another discipline/sport, when they achieved these levels.

D. Development Card Eligibility:

In addition to the discipline specific eligibility requirements for mogul, aerial, halfpipe, slopestyle / big air, athletes named to HPP nominated for a Development card (D) must meet the following general eligibility requirements:

1. Commit to relocating to a designated Freestyle Canada Training Centre or approved training program, under the terms set out in her or his FC/High Performance Program Athlete Agreement.
2. Compete in at least three competitions eligible for National team selection in the season just ended.
3. Athletes must meet the minimum performance level described below, to be eligible for card nomination:

Moguls Athlete Development Card Eligibility:

Mogul Athletes, named to HPP, who meet qualifier #1 or #2 or #3 may be eligible for nomination for Development Carding:

#1 - One (1) medal at a NorAm level event (or other Continental Cup (CC) event recognized by Freestyle Canada for HPP selection purposes) in single moguls or dual moguls. Recognized events will be published before the start of the competitive season on the Freestyle Canada website as part of the HPP Selection criteria.

#2 - Two (2) top 8 at a NorAm level event (or other CC event recognized by Freestyle Canada for HPP selection purposes) in



single or dual moguls (final placing only). Recognized events will be published before the start of the competitive season on the Freestyle Canada website as part of the HPP Selection criteria:
<https://www.freestylecanada.ski/en/programs/hp/policies/>

#3 - Top 40% of field size at a WC event in single or dual moguls (final placing only).

Aerial Athlete Development Card Eligibility:

Aerial Athletes, named to HPP, who meet qualifier #4 or #5 may be eligible for nomination for Development Carding.

#1 - One (1) medal and Top 50% of field size at a NorAm level event (or other Continental Cup (CC) event recognized by Freestyle Canada for HPP selection purposes) **OR** Nationals. Recognized events will be published before the start of the competitive season on the Freestyle Canada website as part of the HPP Selection criteria:
<https://www.freestylecanada.ski/en/programs/hp/policies/>

#2 - Achieve one jump raw score of 25.8 or higher from HPP National ranking eligible events, while performing a degree of difficulty of 2.6 or higher (bLT) for women and 2.9 or higher for men (bLF).

Halfpipe and Slopestyle / Big Air Athlete Development Card Eligibility:

Halfpipe, Slopestyle and Big Air athletes, named to HPP, who meet qualifier #6 or #7 or #8 may be eligible for nomination for Development Carding.

#1 - Two (2) Top 8 and top 2/3rds at a Tier 2 level or higher event. Only from HPP Ranking eligible events.

#2 - One (1) Top 16 and top 2/3rds at a Tier 1 coming from HPP Ranking eligible events.

#3 – One (1) podium at a Tier 2 event, coming from HPP Ranking eligible events.

- See the HPP Selection criteria for description of the HPP Ranking eligible events:
<https://www.freestylecanada.ski/en/programs/hp/policies/>



E. Distribution of Development Cards:

There are two sequential steps in the allocation of Development Cards:

1. Discipline Allocation: the funding is equally distributed between the four disciplines
 - a. Any carding dollar amount not dividable by four falls to the Performance Allocation step (below)
 - b. Gender distribution is considered within each discipline.
2. Performance Allocation: any carding dollar allocation remaining after the Discipline Allocation will be distributed using Performance Allocation. This amount consists of any amount after the initial allocation by discipline or any funds freed up when athletes previously nominated turn down funding. Performance Allocation will be distributed by using one list that includes both genders and all disciplines created using each athlete's top-2 eligible performance results.

Discipline Allocation Step for Development Cards

Any money remaining after Sr 1-2 and Sr/C1 cards have been approved will be divided equally between the four disciplines: aerials, moguls, halfpipe and slopestyle / big air.

1. Cards will be distributed in multiples of four based on each discipline having eligible athletes; the order of disciplines is irrelevant as only cards in multiples of four will be distributed in this step.
2. It is likely that the number of cards will not directly match the next group of eligible disciplines; Any amount of cards remaining will be distributed through the Performance Allocation method.
3. Allocations within each discipline (intra-discipline allocation is independent of any other discipline's allocation):
 - Within each discipline, gender balance will be considered:
 - Cards will be distributed evenly between the two genders within each discipline.
 - In the event of an odd number of available cards, the available card will be allocated to the higher ranked athlete using the tie breaking method outlined in the Performance Allocation method (later in this document); the other athlete will automatically revert to the Performance Allocation method.
 - If there are not enough skiers of one gender within a discipline, remaining Card(s) will remain within that discipline and be allocated to the next eligible athlete(s) of the other gender.
 - If there are not enough eligible athletes within a discipline, any remaining cards will revert to the Performance Allocation method.
 - Cards will be allocated within each discipline's gender according to the discipline's 2022-23 HPP Final Rankings per gender (see HPP selection protocols for ranking



procedure), including previously carded athletes who qualify under the Extra- ordinary clause and are ranked accordingly in the HPP ranking of their discipline.

Performance Allocation Step/Method for Development Card Allocation

Performance Allocation is used to allocate any cards or partial cards that aren't allocated in the Discipline Allocation step. Examples include:

- insufficient Development Cards to be equally distributed to between the four disciplines,
- remaining cards due to insufficient eligible athletes in a given discipline in the Discipline Allocation, or
- any additional funds (i.e. through a late retirement of a previously nominated athlete), or

Tie breaking methods described in the Performance Allocation step will be used when ties exist in any Development card allocation decision.

Performance Allocation Ranking Process

Development Cards are allocated from the highest skier on the Performance Allocation list down until there is no more carding. Athletes who do not receive a card will remain eligible in the order of the list should additional Cards become available. Note that this step is based on performance: men and women athletes are ranked on one list based solely on their performance results.

1. Tier 1 Grouping: All athletes with a Top 16 and Top 2/3 of field size in a high-level event (i.e. FIS World Cup or Tier 1 event. (Including dual moguls)). Athletes will be ranked in order of the best result (i.e. 8th ranked higher than 12th). In the event of a tie between two or more athletes, each athlete's next best WC or Tier 1 result will be compared. Tier 1 skiers will appear first on the Performance Allocation ranking list followed by Tier 2 ranked skiers.
2. Tier 2 Grouping: Each athlete's two best eligible placings from FIS NorAms or HPP eligible events held in the 2022-2023 competition season, will be given a value of the placing (1st =1 point, 7th = 7 points) The athlete with the lowest score will be ranked highest. If a tie remains it will be broken in favor of the athlete with the best top placing.

If a tie is not able to be broken using results, it will be broken in favor of the athlete with the highest number of FIS points, from the most recent published list.



Health Related Curtailment of Activities (SR-HC or D-HC)

1. Health Related Curtailment of Activities will use the regulations outlined in the HPP team selection protocols under "Exceptional Circumstances".
2. Athletes who were not carded in the previous season are not eligible for a Senior or Development HC card.
3. Athletes who were carded in the previous season and were unable to meet the carding criteria strictly due to health-related reasons as outlined in the HPP teams' selection document under "Exceptional Circumstances", may be eligible for a Senior or Development HC Card if the following conditions are met:
 - The athlete meets the extra-ordinary circumstance criteria in the discipline specific HPP Team Selection policy;
 - The athlete must be recommended for an Injury Card by the HPP Selection Committee.

Conditions for the athlete injured:

The athlete does not withdraw from the High Performance Program during that period and provides written confirmation of his or her intention to return to full participation in the HPP at the earliest possible date after clearance from the Freestyle Canada medical team.

1. Written evaluation is provided by both, the FC's coaching staff and a FC designated physician, indicating that the athlete can be expected to achieve at least the minimum standards required for carding during the upcoming carding period.
2. The athlete undertakes in writing to train and/or rehabilitate under the supervision of Freestyle Canada or its designate at a level that minimizes risk to the athlete's personal health and ensures optimum return to full training and competition at the earliest possible date after clearance from the Freestyle Canada team. Failure to follow such a program without due cause shall be grounds for immediate termination of carding.

Returning Olympic / World Top-8 Athletes

An athlete/team who is returning to the national team after a period of no more than one competitive season may be nominated for an SR card if they demonstrate the following criteria:

- Has previously obtained a top-8 result at the most recent Olympic Winter Games and/or at one of the two most recent World Championships,
- Is currently demonstrating they are tracking well towards the competitive skill levels as described in section D, "SR NATIONAL CARD CRITERIA (SR / C1)." The HPP selection committee will determine within the timelines of this policy,



- A commitment to international competition in the upcoming season, and
- An approved training and coaching plan.

Returning athletes will be ranked at the end of all SR card nominations, in the discipline order for the given carding cycle. In the case of more than one such nomination within any discipline, the nominations will be ranked in order of their placement at the most recent Olympic Winter Games. Those with no Olympic result will be ranked after the returning Olympic medalist(s) and ranked in order of their placement at the most recent Worlds, followed by the preceding Worlds. Placement in the aerial team event will not be used in any of these cases.

Withdraw Temporarily or Permanently

If an athlete wishes, for health-related or other reasons, to withdraw temporarily or permanently from normal carded athlete training and competition activities, the normal rules for withdrawal from the Athlete Assistance Program shall apply. The athlete will no longer be eligible for monthly training and living support but may be eligible for Deferred Tuition or Special Needs support.

Appeal Process

In the event an athlete feels an error was made in the application of this criteria they should immediately contact their HPP Director. If the situation is not resolved through this discussion an athlete may file an appeal through the regular Freestyle Canada process (Appeal Policy).